

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for treating thin-sectioned tissues with at least one treatment liquid, ~~which comprises said device comprising~~ a support plate for said tissues and an object support ~~comprising recesses~~ for said ~~at least one~~ treatment liquid, said support plate ~~disposed opposite said object support when in a treatment position and comprises an upper side and an underside with marked positions and metal screens for mounting said thin-sectioned tissues, said upper side having a plurality of magnets disposed in holes, said holes being positioned opposite said marked positions, disposed opposite said object support in a treatment position~~, wherein said device is adapted so that a plurality of said object supports can be automatically placed into said treatment position.

2. Cancelled

3. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 2, wherein said marked positions for said metal screens are formed as elevations on the underside of the support plate.

4. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 2, wherein said magnets in the holes on the upper side of the support plate are permanent magnets or electromagnets.

5. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 2, wherein said support plate is comprised of a dimensionally stable material.

6. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 2, wherein said support plate is treated with a hydrophobic coating on the underside carrying said metal screens.

7. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 2, wherein said object support comprises an upper side with recesses for containment of said treatment liquid, said recesses positioned opposite said metal screens.

8. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, further comprising means for holding said support plate and conveying means with motor means for raising and lowering said support plate.

9. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 8, further comprising computer means and position sensors for automatic control of said conveying means.

10. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said object support comprises an upper side with free recesses adapted for receiving the treatment liquid.

11. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 10, wherein said object support is comprised of a transparent, dimensionally stable material selected from the group consisting of glass and a fiber-reinforced plastic.

12. (Previously presented) The device according to Claim 10, wherein said object support comprises a hydrophobic coating on the upper side containing the recesses.

13. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 12, wherein the depth of the recesses on the upper side of the object support is about the same as the thickness of the hydrophobic coating.

14. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 10, wherein the liquid volume of the recesses of the object support is at least 5 μ L.

15. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 10, wherein the treatment liquid is a marking and/or washing solution for carrying out immunological marking techniques for thin-sectioned tissues.

16. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 10, wherein said object support further comprises a bar code and/or chip for data storage.

17. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 10, wherein the recesses for the treatment liquid on the upper side of the object support are arranged opposite the positions of the metal screens on the underside of the support plate.

18. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 10, further comprising conveyor means for transmission of said object support, a guiding track and a motor, said guiding track and motor providing means for establishing said treatment position.

19. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 18, further comprising computer means and position sensor means for automatically controlling said conveyor.

20. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 18, wherein on said conveyor said object support is provided with cover means so as to form a chamber therefor, said device including means for at least partially opening said cover means automatically.

21. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 20, wherein said chamber further comprises means for holding an absorbent for elevated humidity in said chamber for minimizing evaporation of the treatment liquid on the object supports.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for treating thin-sectioned tissues on a support plate with at least one treatment liquid by the steps which comprise:

(i) filling at least one object support comprising recesses with [[a]] said at least one treatment liquid;

~~(ii) bringing the object support into a treatment position;~~

(ii) mounting said thin-sectioned tissues on metal screens resting on marked and raised positions on the underside of said support plate maintained in place by magnetic means disposed in holes on the upper side of said support plate opposite said marked positions;

- (iii) bringing the object support into a treatment position;
- (iii) (iv) lowering the support plate onto the object support for contact between the treatment liquid and the thin-sectioned tissues, and
- (iv) (v) at least automatically moving the object support (4) to a next treatment position.

23. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the treatment of the thin-sectioned tissues comprises immunological marking and/or washing steps.

24. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the treatment of the thin-sectioned tissues is carried out automatically.

25. Cancelled

26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22, including the step of holding the support plate by fastening to a holding head of a conveying device with automatic raising and lowering functionalities.

27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22, including the step of filling said recesses with a marking and/or washing solution for performing immunological marking techniques for thin-sectioned tissues.

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 22, comprising the step of bringing the object support into a treatment position so that the treatment liquid in the recesses of the object support is located opposite the thin-sectioned tissues on the metal screens of the support plate.

29. (previously presented) The method according to claim 22, comprising the step of transporting said object support to said treatment position by means of a conveyor with the aid of a guiding track and motor.

30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 29, including the step of controlling said conveyor with the aid of a computer and position sensors.

31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 30, including the step adjusting said conveyor so the support plate is brought in close proximity to the object support, wherein the thin-sectioned tissues on the metal screens come in contact with the treatment liquid on the object support.

32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22, including the step of at least partially automatically opening a chamber for the liquid on said object support before contact occurs between the thin-sectioned tissues on the support plate and the treatment liquid.

33. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22, comprising the step of contacting said thin-sectioned tissues on the support plate with the treatment liquid on the object support over any desired incubation period.

34. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 33, comprising the step of automatically lifting said support plate at the end of the incubation period along guiding tracks, wherein and the object support on the conveyor is automatically brought into another treatment position.

35. Cancelled

36. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the object support comprises an upper side containing free recesses configured for receiving the treatment liquid.